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Carrying the Torch

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Editorial Foreword

Carrying the Torch

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IJASS was established in 1998. Since then, the journal has gone from strength to strength. It is now the official journal of Social Care Ireland and a member of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The latter is a comprehensive and well-renowned open-access directory. IJASS meets the range of DOAJ selection criteria based on scholarly research coverage and peer-review quality control. Over the last number of years, there has been a significant increase in the journal's international readership base. All of this is due to the commitment and dedication shown by the outgoing Editor, Dr. Kevin Lalor, Dublin Institute of Technology, and outgoing Managing Editor, Dr. Sinéad Freeman, Dublin Institute of Technology. We look forward to continuing on their great work in "*carrying the [IJASS] torch*". We would like to record a sincere thank you to them for their assistance and support during the hand-over phase between the outgoing and new editorial teams. It was invaluable and very much appreciated by us.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Editorial Board: Prof. Mary Daly, University of Oxford; Prof. Robbie Gilligan, Trinity College Dublin; Dr. Michelle Millar, NUI Galway; Dr. Andrew Loxley, Trinity College Dublin; Dr. Tom O'Connor, Cork Institute of Technology; Dr. Cahal O' Connell, University College Cork; Dr. Stella Owens, Centre for Effective Services, Dublin, and Dr. Martin Power, University of Limerick. We look forward to working with you all to maintain and progress the work of IJASS.

This volume of IJASS is a general edition, carrying a range of papers, relevant to the applied social sciences. In the opening paper, Catherine Forde, Deirdre Horgan, Shirley Martin and Aisling Parkes consider "*Children and Young People's Participation in the Community in Ireland: Experiences and Issues*". Using a social and relational understanding of participation, the paper presents the findings of research into children and young people's experiences of participating in their communities in Ireland and discusses the implications of these findings for research, public policy and community. Mark Taylor in his paper on "*Objects, Places and Stories of Transformative Youth Work*" reflects on the implications of former service users of a youth work organisation unexpectedly employing objects on display in the organisation's meeting room to tell stories of transformative youth work encounters. His paper explores the practical and symbolic functions of these objects in the lives of young people.

Dearbhail Buckley, David Abbott and John Franey in "*An Exploration of Irish Teachers' Experiences of Stress*" investigate both primary and secondary teachers' individual experiences of stress, differences in stress levels based on experience and supports teachers recommend in schools to alleviate stress. A review of teaching "Relationships and Sexuality Education" (RSE) in Irish primary schools since its inception in 1996 to date is provided by Margaret Nohilly and Gerard Farrelly in "*Sexuality in the Context of Relationships and*

Sexuality Education". This paper considers the opportunities and challenges of teaching in this area.

The paper by Rebecca Beegan and Joe Moran focuses on "*Prostitution and Sex Work: Situating Ireland's New Law on Prostitution in the Radical and Liberal Feminist Paradigms*". It discusses two dominant feminist positions: liberal feminism and radical feminism. The authors explore prostitution as a form of violence, in and of itself, versus the proposition that prostitution is a form of paid work freely entered into and chosen like any other career. Their paper is published here in the context of the Irish Government's recent legislation on prostitution: *The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017*. Stephen Brosnan in "*Crime Concentration in Ireland in 2012: A Location Quotient Approach*" investigates spatial patterns of crime in Ireland to enhance the theoretical understanding of the role of space and place in crime occurrence. His paper highlights the importance of having practical crime prevention solutions specific to particular places. The final paper by Gillian McNamee and Ciara Staunton: "*Supports for Offenders with Learning Disabilities in the Irish Judicial System: A Critical Review*" draws attention to the prevalence of learning disabilities among offenders. The existing literature calls for the introduction of training and education in relation to disabilities for those working in the judicial system in addition to more appropriate rehabilitation settings and effective support in assisting those returning to their own communities. The authors suggest that a multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach is vital and should be governed by national guidelines.

This edition of IJASS also includes a review of "*Social Work in Ireland – Changes and Continuities*" edited by Alastair Christie, Brid Featherstone, Suzanne Quinn and Trish Walsh (published by Palgrave in 2015).

What we have attempted in this edition is to provide a selection of some of the innovative and thought provoking writing emerging from the applied social sciences. We hope that you find it a useful and interesting collection.